## FILED DEC 0.3 2020 CLERK SUPREME COUPT

## In the Iowa Supreme Court

In the Matter of the February 2021 Iowa Bar Examination

Order

The Iowa Supreme Court has continued to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and evaluate its options for the February 2021 Iowa Bar Examination. That exam is scheduled to be administered on February 23 and 24, 2021. The National Conference of Bar Examiners recently announced that it will make Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) materials available to be delivered either inperson or remotely for the February administration of the exam. Current reports show a recent rise in the number of COVID-19 cases nationwide, including in Iowa. Given the uncertainty of what the new case and hospitalization numbers will be in February related to the pandemic, the court has decided to order the February 2021 Iowa Bar Examination be delivered remotely while still producing a transferable UBE score for applicants.

The court therefore modifies its prior order entered on October 9, 2020 and orders the following:

- 1. Iowa Court Rule 31.3(1)(a) is temporarily modified to permit the February 2021 Iowa Bar Examination to be administered remotely. That rule is further temporarily modified to permit the mandatory orientation session to be held remotely on a date to be determined by the Iowa Board of Law Examiners. The remainder of Rule 31.3 remains in effect, which provides in part that the Iowa bar examination will be the Uniform Bar Examination.
- 2. Iowa Court Rule 31.6 is temporarily modified. Applicants who have registered for the February 2021 Iowa Bar Examination may withdraw their applications and either defer their application fees to the July 2021 Iowa Bar Examination or receive a refund of their Rule 31.6 February 2021 bar admission fees. In the event of a deferral of the fee to the July 2021 exam, a new, complete application must be filed with the Office of Professional Regulation in accordance with the deadline set forth in Iowa Court Rule 31.5(2). In the event of a refund request, any future application to take the Iowa bar examination will require a new, complete application and a new Rule 31.6 fee. In order to take advantage of the deferral or refund option, applicants must provide a

written request to the Office of Professional Regulation to either defer the fee or receive a refund by December 31, 2020. After that date, applicants may withdraw their applications, but no deferral or refund is available.

3. Iowa Court Rule 31.5(2) is temporarily modified for applicants who previously applied for the July 2020 Iowa Bar Examination and elected to defer to the July 2021 exam due to the continuing pandemic. Those applicants who chose to defer their fees to the July 2021 exam may elect to apply to take the February 2021 exam by notifying the Office of Professional Regulation in writing of their election by December 23, 2020. A new, complete bar exam application must also be filed with the Office of Professional Regulation by December 31, 2020. If such an election is not made and application is not timely filed, the applicant's July 2020 exam fee will continue to be deferred to the July 2021 exam, and a new, full application will be due on or before the filing deadline for that exam as prescribed in Rule 31.5(2). No other modifications to Rule 31.5(2) are made, and the deadline for the February 2021 Iowa Bar Examination will not be extended beyond what is provided for in this paragraph.

To the extent there is any conflict between this order and the October 9, 2020 order, the provisions of this order control.

Dated this 3rd day of December, 2020.

The Iowa Supreme Court

By

Susan Larson Christensen, Chief Justice

Copies to:

Iowa Supreme Court Iowa Court of Appeals Board of Law Examiners Dean Jerry Anderson, Drake University Law School

Dean Joshua Fershée, Creighton University School of Law

Dean Kevin Washburn, University of Iowa College of Law